



# FLORIDA HERITAGE

SPRING 1997

Flagler's *Whitehall*

**Mount Dora**

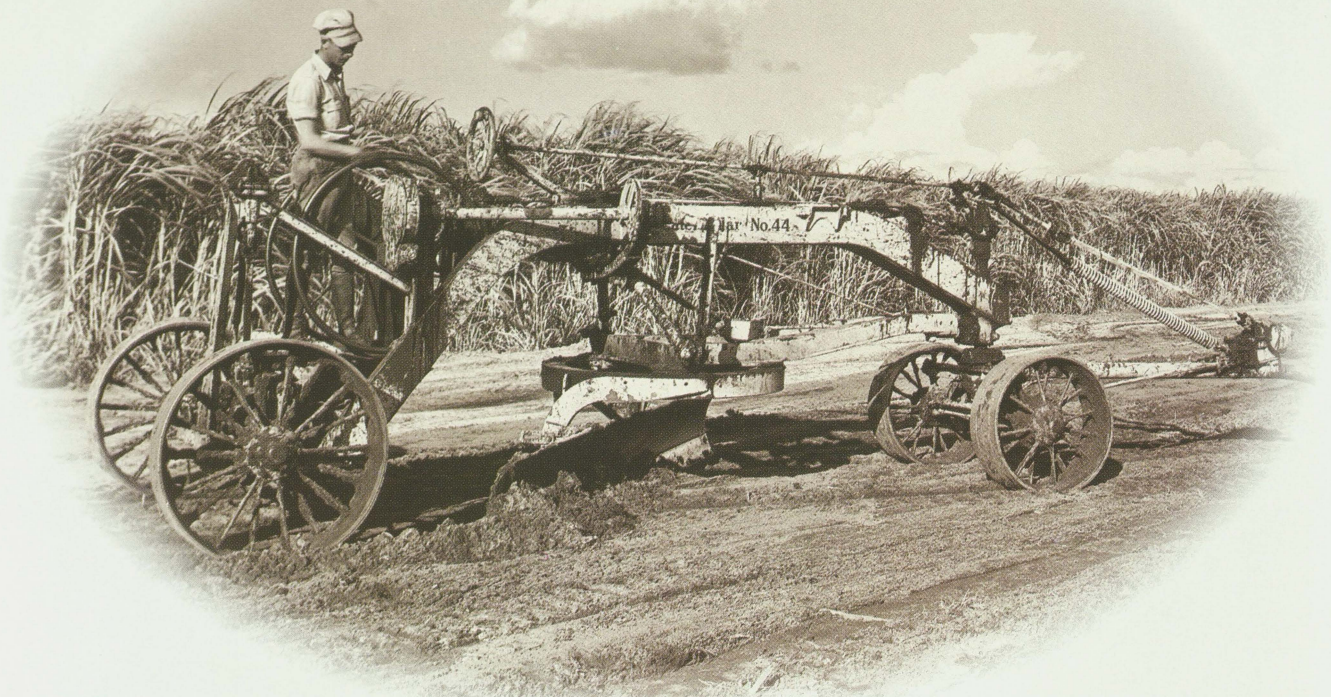
*A Town With a View*

**Florida's History in Stone**

*The Great Sugar Mill Plantations*



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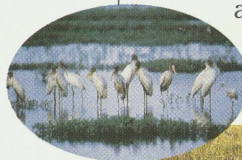
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# table of Contents

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 2 SPRING 1997

## Features

### 8 Flagler's Taj Mahal

Visit the Henry Morrison Flagler Museum in Palm Beach and you'll understand why this elegant mansion mirrors the opulence of the nineteenth century Gilded Age.

By Phillip M. Pollock

### 14 Mount Dora: A Town With a View

Hang up your mouse ears and travel to this historic community less than an hour from Orlando.

By Michael Zimny

### 18 Florida's History in Stone

These haunting ruins take us back to Florida's great plantations during the Territorial period.

By Rusty Ennemoser

### 22 Florida Folk Festival Celebrates Our Many Cultures

White Springs on the Suwannee River is the place to sample Florida's many cultural traditions during the annual Florida Folk Festival in May.

By Tina Bucuvalas

## Departments

### 3 Editorial

### 4 News and Field Notes

### 23 Calendar

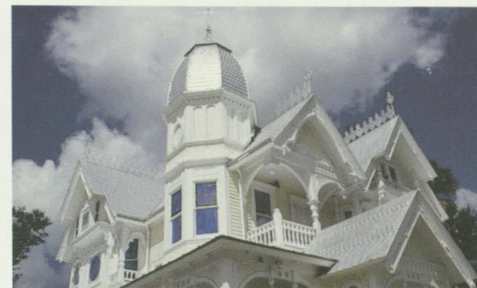
### 26 Books

### 28 On a Road Less Traveled

### 29 Marketplace

Hang up your mouse ears  
and visit this historic  
community less than an  
hour from Orlando.

14



They stand solid and unmoving, stone monuments to  
some of Florida's earliest pioneer settlements and one of  
the most turbulent periods in the state's history.

18

South of the South will  
be the theme for the 45th  
annual Florida Folk  
Festival and will  
incorporate diverse  
aspects of Florida's  
cultural landscape.

22



ON THE COVER: Whitehall. Photo courtesy of the Henry Morrison Flagler Museum/Peter Arholt.

BACK COVER: Wakulla Springs State Park. Photo by Phillip M. Pollock.



## CELEBRATE FLORIDA WITH WORKS OF ART FROM THE VICKERS COLLECTION

Now you can take home a part of this fabulous collection with this beautiful combination of the hardbound book: *Celebrating Florida: Works of Art from the Vickers Collection*, which has been called the most comprehensive study of Florida art currently available, and its companion 24"x30" fine art print of Thomas Moran's 1880 painting, *Fort George Island*.



Fort George Island 1880, Thomas Moran (1837-1926), Oil on Canvas, 31"x37", Collection of Sam and Roberta Vickers  
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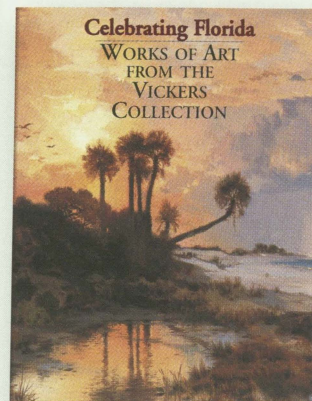
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Robert Rauschenberg, *New Reality*, 1996

Moscow Festival Ballet, *Paquita*, 1997



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*Florida Heritage* (ISSN 1071-3417) is published four times a year by the Division of Historical Resources, Florida Department of State, R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250. This magazine is available by subscription or as a benefit of membership in either the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation or Florida History Associates. Entire contents, copyright 1997 by the Division of Historical Resources. All rights reserved. No part of this magazine may be reprinted without written permission of the Publisher.

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## FROM THE SECRETARY

# MUSIC, MANSIONS AND MILLS

We certainly hope you will make plans to join us during Memorial Day weekend at the 45th annual Florida Folk Festival in White Springs. This event showcases the state's many wonderful folk traditions and provides a variety of music, food and entertainment for the entire family. The 1997 festival promises to be bigger and better than ever, focusing on the rich heritage that makes Florida unique among all southern states.

Our congratulations to the Florida Supreme Court which is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. In addition to a number of special events during May, I'm proud to announce that the Florida Supreme Court Building is the newest venue in the Department of State's Cultural Arts Program. Marking this new partnership is an exhibit of 24 paintings by Martin Johnson Heade, considered by many as Florida's greatest painter.

And do take time to visit the fascinating places in this issue, including the magnificent Henry Flagler mansion in Palm Beach County, the haunting sugar mills which are remnants of early Florida settlements, the lovely central Florida community of Mount Dora which has been revitalized through antique shops and quaint restaurants, and of course, the annual Florida Folk Festival.

*Sandra Mortham*

**Sandra B. Mortham**  
**Secretary of State**





## Tallahassee

# The Florida Supreme Court Celebrates its Sesquicentennial

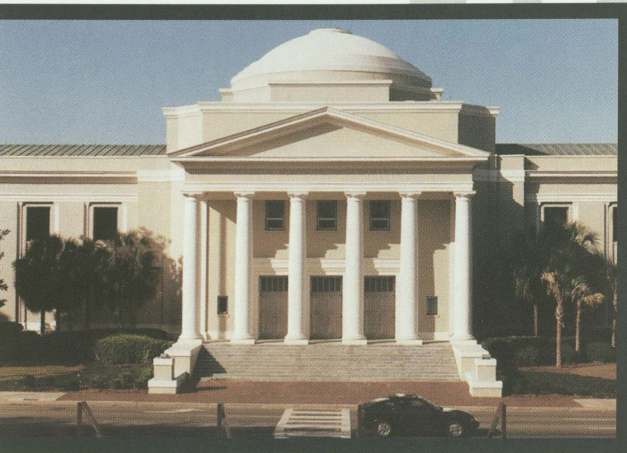
During the week of May 5<sup>th</sup>, the Florida Supreme Court will celebrate 150 years of history.

"Our heritage has been one of continuously opening the courthouse doors wider to let more and more Floridians gain access to justice," said Chief Justice Gerald Kogan.

In conjunction with the celebration will be a special exposition, "Martin Johnson Heade: The Floral and Hummingbird Studies." Acknowledged as one of Florida's greatest painters, the exhibit features 24 studies by Heade on loan from the St. Augustine Historical Society. The exhibition has toured throughout Florida and is being brought to the Supreme Court by Secretary of State Sandra B. Mortham as part of her highly successful Capitol Arts Program. It will be open to the public on May 7.

Several other events are planned for the celebration. The court is seeking the names and addresses of descendants of the 76 Justices that have served on the Supreme Court Bench so they can participate in a "descendants' reunion." On May 9, the Court will hear actual cases while sitting in the restored old courtroom of the 1902 Capitol.

Educational activities will also play a role in the celebration. A new Justice Teaching Institute will open at the Supreme Court on May 8, bringing schoolteachers from around Florida to the Court for a series of discussions, seminars and programs to help them better understand the legal system. In cooperation with Commissioner of Education Frank Brogan, the annual program will recognize participating teachers as Fellows of the Justice Teaching Institute.—M.Z.



*Study of  
Cherokee  
Roses on a  
Branch,  
Martin Johnson  
Heade,  
ca 1884-90,  
oil on canvas*



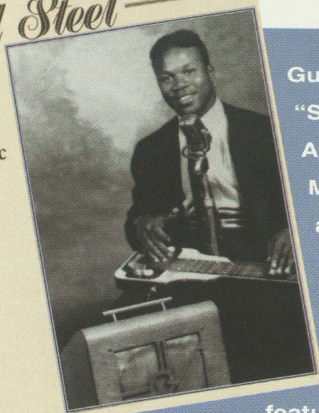


## Sacred Steel

Traditional Sacred  
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in Florida

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Willie Eason  
Sonny Treadway  
Glenn Lee  
Henry Nelson  
Aubrey Ghent

Arhoolie  
CD 159



## Sacred Steel Named 1995 Album of the Year

Guitar Magazine has named "Sacred Steel: Traditional Sacred African-American Steel Guitar Music in Florida" as its 1995 album of the year. Produced by Florida's Division of Historical Resources and funded in part by a National Endowment for the Arts grant, the recording features performances by the

state's best guitarists in the African American sacred steel tradition and has consistently been praised by critics and media alike. (See Florida Heritage, Fall 1996).

In its January issue, Guitar Magazine editors picked a breakthrough album of the year

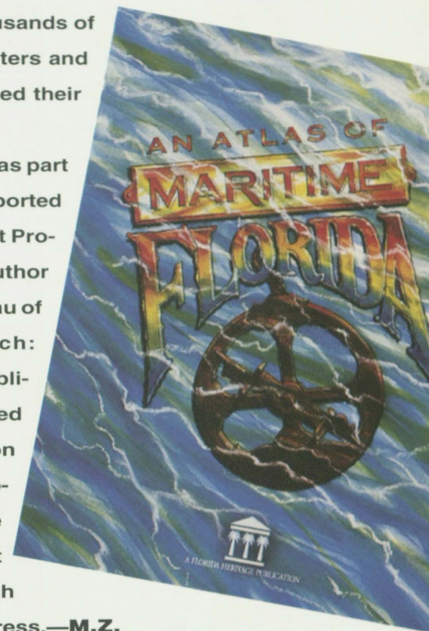
for each of the last 30 years. They defined those albums as ones which "burned indelible imprints into guitarists' consciousness" and "confronted the instrument's possibilities with uncompromising individuality."

You can order a CD of "Sacred Steel" from Arhoolie Productions Inc., 10341 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530, (510) 525-7471 phone, (510) 525-1204 fax. It is also available from the Museum of Florida History Gift Shop, 500 S. Bronough, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250, (904) 488-1484. Please make checks payable to Florida History Associates.—T.B.

## NEW ATLAS POINTS THE WAY TO FLORIDA'S MARITIME HISTORY

A new publication of the Florida Department of State, An Atlas of Maritime Florida, offers an introduction to 13,000 years of Florida maritime history, geography and economics. Richly illustrated with maps, drawings and photographs, the atlas explores Florida's physical environment, the history of maritime industries and commerce, navigational tools, ship types, lighthouses, ports and maritime hazards like hurricanes, reefs and shoals. Also examined are the thousands of shipwrecks in Florida's waters and the factors which influenced their losses.

The atlas was prepared as part of a multi-year project supported by the Coastal Management Program in Florida. Says co-author Roger C. Smith of the Bureau of Archaeological Research: "There wasn't a single publication until now that pulled this variety of information on Florida's maritime history together in one place." The atlas is available at most larger bookstores or through the University of Florida Press.—M.Z.



## VIZCAYA ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR ARTS AND CRAFTS CENTRE

The Foundation for the Villa Vizcaya, Inc., recently announced plans to create a Centre for the Study of European Decorative Arts. The Centre will be located in the Villa's historic Farm Village, a group of nine buildings which originally served as support structures for James Deering's elaborate 1914 Miami estate.

Presently occupied by the Dade County Parks and Recreation Department, the Village will be transformed into an educational center for Vizcaya focusing on the European Decorative Arts. The Centre will provide space for traveling exhibits, a restoration and conservation studio and a research library. In the process, the former Village buildings will be renovated and preserved.

Three organizations will be involved in the Centre: The Foundation for the Villa Vizcaya, The Vizcayans and The Vizcaya Volunteer Guides. Says Leslie Rivera, Executive Director of the Foundation: "We want to make the Centre an international destination . . . the best of its kind in the United States." The multi-million dollar project is expected to take between five and ten years to complete.—M.Z.





# "SUNSHINE AND THE SILVER SCREEN"

## Focuses on Florida-Made Movies

The Museum of Florida History in Tallahassee recently opened a new exhibit entitled "Sunshine and the Silver Screen: A Century of Florida Films." Long in the planning stages, this exhibit incorporates some 200 pieces of memorabilia from fifty different movies filmed in Florida between 1921 and the present.

"Sunshine and the Silver Screen" spans the involvement of Jacksonville's Norman Studios during the silent movie era through more

recent productions by MGM and Universal Studios in Orlando. Posters, props and costumes from movies like Tarzan's Secret Treasure and Creature from the Black Lagoon highlight this new exhibit. One of the largest components of the exhibit is the mechanical shark that was used to film Jaws II. Also included in the exhibit is a bright pink

swimsuit, designed by

Edith Head and worn by Esther Williams' double in the movie Easy to Love filmed in 1953.

"Many people do not realize that Florida's romance with the movie industry goes back to before the turn of the century," says Sandra B. Mortham, Secretary of State. "Sunshine and the Silver Screen" shows through August 24. —PMP.



## Sarasota

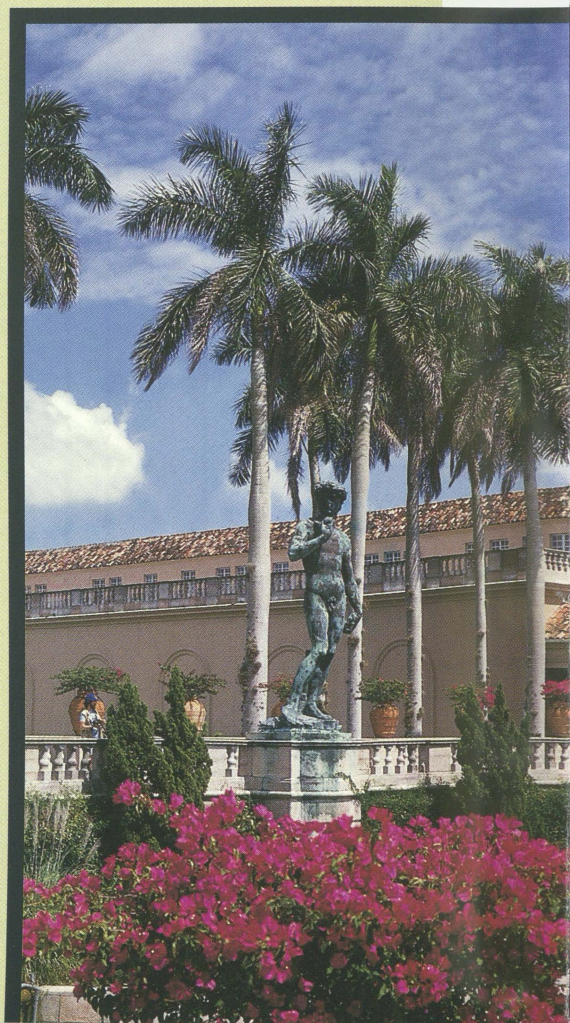
# RINGLING MUSEUM CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

On January 25, the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota began a year-long series of exhibitions, programs and publications to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a state museum. Entitled *John Ringling: Dreamer ~ Builder ~ Collector*, this major celebration is the museum's greatest curatorial endeavor about one of America's most colorful persons and his life as an art collector.

The multi-dimensional event will incorporate unveilings and reunitions, new interpretations and reinstallations of restored works of art. Highlights will include rotating and permanent exhibits of the Ringling collection featuring paintings, sculpture and decorative arts and antiques. The Ringling collection includes paintings by such artists as Rubens, Van Dyck, Tintoretto and Poussin.

Accompanying the event is a new book: *John Ringling: Dreamer ~ Builder ~ Collector – Legacy of the Circus King*. Published by the museum, the richly-illustrated 160-page volume is the most recent scholarly research about John Ringling. Each of its eight essays will focus on a particular aspect of Ringling and how he developed his collection.

A Sarasota landmark, the Italian Renaissance style John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art was completed in 1929. New York architect John Henry Phillips designed the palatial building around three sides of a courtyard dominated by a giant bronze replica of Michaelangelo's *David*. Ringling bequeathed the museum and his nearby Venetian style residence, Ca'd'Zan, to the State of Florida upon his death in 1936. Following ten years of litigation, the estate was formally accepted by Governor Millard Caldwell on February 9, 1946. —M.Z.



JOHN AND MABLE RINGLING MUSEUM OF ART



# ART TRAIL OPENS ACROSS NORTH FLORIDA

The North Florida Art Trail, extending through Havana, Quincy, Greensboro and Chattahoochee along some of Florida's most scenic roads, is now open. Five and ten mile drives separate all these communities, allowing the traveler to visit fine art galleries and working artists' studios, historic tobacco barns, bed and breakfast inns, outdoor murals, and Victorian homes.

The Art Trail includes Havana (see Florida Heritage, Fall 1996), once a thriving tobacco-growing community that has now been revitalized by tourists who seek fine art and antiques. Also, the Quincy community, named the prestigious "1996 All-American City," boasts the Gallery in Gadsden artists' co-op and the Quincy Music Theater housed in the restored 1940s Leaf Theater.

A "North Florida Art Trail" brochure is available from the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce by calling (800) 627-9231. The brochure details all the stops along the trail and when each is open to the public. — PMP.

## See Fort Lauderdale Once Upon a Time

### Bonnet House

Nestled within the modern city of Fort Lauderdale are three historical treasures filled with architectural richness and colorful history. A visit to these sites is a journey through time, and an experience to remember!



Located between the beach and Intracoastal Waterway just south of Sunrise Boulevard at 900 North Birch Road. (954) 563-5393

### Stranahan House



Located in Downtown Fort Lauderdale, at Las Olas Boulevard and SE 6th Avenue. (954) 524-4736

### Historical Museum



Located in the Historic District at 219 SW 2nd Avenue. (954) 463-4431

Bonnet House is a property of the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation. Funding provided by the Broward Cultural Affairs Council.



Illustrations by: Susan Dvorak

## Take a Self-Guided Tour of Historic Citrus County

Come visit our little piece of paradise, located less than 90 minutes from Tampa or Orlando.

Start your tour in Floral City under the majestic canopy oaks over Orange Avenue adjacent to the residential district listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

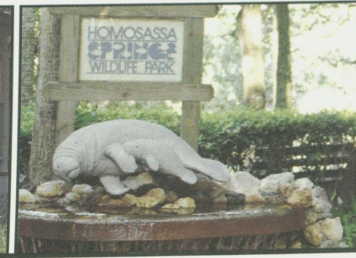
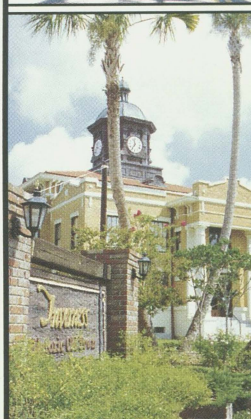
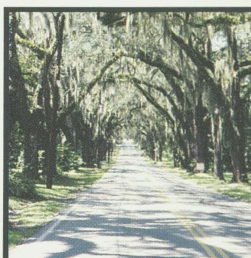
Next stop: downtown Inverness and the 1912 courthouse and the Historical Museum with records dating to 1887. Then, it's on to Crystal River to the Coastal Heritage Museum and the Indian burial grounds. Round out your trip in Homosassa at the remains of an 1800's sugar mill and the Printing Museum.

For a change of pace, visit the State Wildlife Park or browse at some of our 30 antique shops while mingling with some of the friendliest people you've ever met.



Call for our new map brochure for accommodations and things to do while in "Mother Nature's Theme Park".

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*White*





# ball



## FLAGLER'S TAJ MAHAL

THE MARCH 30, 1902 EDITION OF THE NEW YORK HERALD CALLED WHITEHALL "THE TAJ MAHAL OF NORTH AMERICA." AFTER NINETY-FOUR YEARS, THE GRANDEUR OF HENRY FLAGLER'S PALM BEACH HOME HASN'T BEEN LOST. ONLY THE NAME HAS CHANGED; IT IS NOW THE HENRY MORRISON FLAGLER MUSEUM.



BY PHILLIP M. POLLOCK

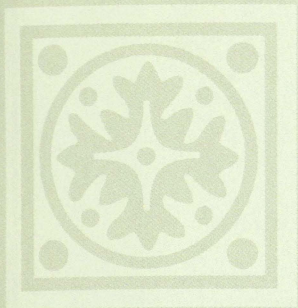
*Photography Courtesy of the Henry Morrison Flagler Museum • Peter Arbolt*





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ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN AND FINE PAINTINGS ARE DEFINED  
BY THE ROOM'S RED FABRIC WALLS





# T

he palatial residence, a gift from Flagler to his third wife, Mary Lily Kenan, was called Whitehall because it reminded Mrs. Flagler of the white-columned plantations in North Carolina. Today, it is one of Florida's prized landmarks and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Architects John Carrère and Thomas Hastings designed and oversaw the construction of Whitehall, as well as several of Flagler's opulent hotels dotting Florida's east coast. It was completed in 1902 after only eighteen months of work. They created a Beaux-Arts style home based upon their French training and in keeping with the Gilded Age penchant for large and impressive construction.

Brilliant white columns set against azure coastal skies set the tone for the home's elegance. A step beyond the ornamented iron entrance is the Marble Hall. The hall, used by Flagler to entertain guests, is truly inspiring. Pastel-colored marble floors feel smooth and rich. Light entering from immense arched windows and reflecting across the intricate golden filigreed ceiling fills the hall with warmth.

Crane your neck ever-so-slightly to view the magnificent gilded art overhead. The largest painting, by Italian artist Benvenuti, is titled "The Crowning of Knowledge." Its softness is almost cloud-like; its delicacy in keeping with the glittering matrix around it.

Marble Hall is simply an appetizer for the remainder of the rooms. There were no constraints on luxury. Whitehall's interior was designed by the New York firm of Pottier & Strymus. Both in the lower level living spaces and the guest and sleeping rooms above, the resplendent tapestries, Oriental rugs, antiques and decorations provide an unsurpassed visual experience.

Most of the rooms throughout Whitehall are called "Period Rooms" because they mimic historical periods and styles. They form a square, with a Spanish-flavored courtyard serving as their center.

From Marble Hall, move left into the adjoining Italian Renaissance Library with rich carmine-red carpeting and wall coverings and dark walnut trim. Flagler designed his library based on each book's fine binding and endpapers.

The Louis XIV Music Room was created for Mary Lily's creative expression—she was an accomplished vocalist. Beautiful works of art grace each of the long rectangular wall spaces as well as the recessed dome overhead, where a copy of "Aurora" by Guido Reni hangs. A twenty-rank pipe organ, the largest ever installed in a private home at the time, was placed against the narrow west wall. For each season, a resident organist was employed to generate cathedral-quality sounds that vibrated beyond the tall brass pipes and into the courtyard nearby.

Perhaps as a way to match Mary Lily's afternoon teas, Flagler located his Swiss Billiard Room adjacent to the Music Room. French Caen stone, warm oak trim and leather chair coverings flavor this masculine room, handsomely furnished with billiard and pool tables and brass cuspidors.

Opposite the courtyard from Marble Hall is the Louis XV Ballroom. This enormous room, one-third the length of a football field, with great vertical windows along each long wall, was first used on March 4, 1902. Much later, on February 6, 1960, it was used to celebrate the opening of the museum.

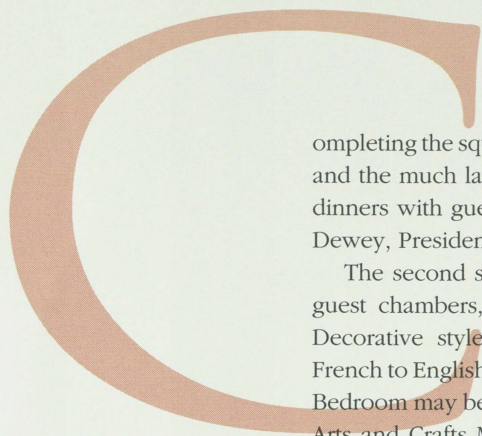






MARBLE HALL IS ADORNED BY BRONZE COLUMN ACCENTS,  
EXQUISITE PAINTINGS, AND MORE COLORS AND USES OF  
MARBLE THAN YOU EVER DREAMED POSSIBLE.





ompleting the square courtyard are the Elizabethan Breakfast Room and the much larger Francis I Dining Room. Here, Flagler hosted dinners with guests such as William Rockefeller, Admiral George Dewey, President Woodrow Wilson and the Duke of Manchester.

The second story of Whitehall consists of nine of the original guest chambers, the Master Suite and Mary Lily's sitting room. Decorative styles vary throughout these spaces, ranging from French to English Arts and Crafts. Of the rooms, the Modern English Bedroom may be one of the most interesting, primarily because its Arts and Crafts Movement styling is so different from the rest of Whitehall. The clean-lined furniture, paneling and mantle were styles very new to America and very different from the typical French and English styles seen throughout most of Whitehall.

Almost as quickly as Whitehall rose to prominence, it was closed after Flagler's death in 1913. Four short years later, Mary died and left the home to her niece, Louise Clisby Wise. Louise did not care for the lifestyle of the Whitehall tradition, so she sold the mansion to a group of investors, and it served as an exclusive club for a very short time. With a twelve-story addition which was later removed, the house became the Whitehall Hotel in 1925 and served lodgers for thirty-four years.

Deteriorating and suffering from neglect, the hotel came to the attention of Jean Flagler Matthews, granddaughter of Flagler. She quickly formed a foundation which purchased the property in 1959.

The home with many of its original furnishings, paintings, silver, glass, dolls, family memorabilia, and the "Rambler," Flagler's private railroad car built in 1886, all comprise the Henry Morrison Flagler Museum.

Adjacent to the museum are the two oldest buildings in Palm Beach: the Royal Poinciana Chapel built by Flagler in 1896 as a non-denominational place of worship and Seagull Cottage, built in 1886 and Flagler's first Palm Beach residence. Both buildings have been moved to their present locations.

Whitehall or Taj Mahal: only someone with the vision of Henry Flagler could create such a place. He had only eleven of his eighty-three years to enjoy the elegance of Whitehall, but his life was far richer than this mansion, whatever opulence it possessed. ■



### *To Learn More*

The Henry Morrison Flagler Museum is located in Palm Beach at the corner of Cocoanut Row and Whitehall Way. From I-95, drive east on Okeechobee Boulevard, cross the bridge to Palm Beach onto what becomes Royal Palm Way. Make a quick left turn on Cocoanut Row and travel about a half mile to the museum entrance. From U. S. 1, or Dixie Highway, take Okeechobee Boulevard east and follow the same directions as above.

The museum is open year round, Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday from noon to 5 pm. It is closed on Mondays. There is an admission fee. (561) 655-2833.



# MOUNT DORA

Antique shops, historic  
architecture, festivals, and  
yes—hills—are all part of this  
picturesque Central Florida  
community.

Is there a *real* Mount Dora in  
Mount Dora? No, not actually, but  
at an elevation of 184 feet, this  
Lake County community does  
command a great view. It's more  
than just height, though, that  
makes this town of 7,900 special.

Mount Dora is one of Florida's  
special places. Nestled on the  
shore of Lake Dora, the town  
invites visitors with sun-dappled  
sidewalks and moss-draped  
ancient oaks, a downtown filled  
with gift, antique and specialty  
shops, and year-round festivals  
ranging from sailing regattas to  
fine arts and crafts shows. Sound  
too good to be true? Not really—

Mount Dora is all of this and  
more, less than an hour  
from Orlando.

Story and Photography By  
Michael Zimny







Relax on the Lakeside Inn's inviting porch.



Lake Dora and Palm Island Park.



# MOUNT DORA

**L**ast year, Mount Dora drew close to one million visitors to its hilly streets, although people have been coming here since the 1870s. The town got its name in the 1880s when U.S. surveyors were preparing a sectional survey of the state. It happened that the surveying team was camped on the homestead of Mrs. Dora Ann Dowdy, an early pioneer settler. In return for her hospitality, the engineers named a nearby lake for her. The surrounding hills probably suggested the first half of the town's name, and Mount Dora was born.

Shopping, restaurants, antiques, festivals and sightseeing abound in the small community, but how should you see it? A good place to begin is the Mount Dora Chamber of Commerce. Located in the town's 1915 Seaboard Coast Line Depot on Alexander Street, the chamber is well-stocked with maps and brochures to point you in the right direction and a friendly staff to answer your questions.

For shoppers, there's only one destination: downtown. Downtown Mount Dora is classic small-town America, where parking is still free, walking a pleasure and only two traffic lights easily accommodate traffic. Name something and you're likely to find it here: collectibles,

reason—there's a lot going on here. On May 3-4, the annual Art in the Park event will be held in downtown's Donnelly Park. A bicycle festival, the largest of its kind in Florida, brings more than 1,500 cyclists to town each October, followed by a downtown crafts fair. A holiday favorite is the Christmas Lighting of Mount Dora, when Donnelly Park is transformed into a magical wonderland by more than 100,000 tiny lights hung from its trees. In February, the large Mount Dora Art Festival attracts hundreds of artists and craftspeople who display painting, watercolor, photography, sculpture, glass, ceramics and more.

Mount Dora's gently rolling countryside, carpeted by open pastures, forests and orange groves, is great for a leisurely drive or bicycle ride. But nature extends even to the town's front door. You can walk from downtown to the shore of Lake Dora and Palm Island Park. Here, a long boardwalk passes beneath tall cypress, oaks and palms, allowing a close-up view of herons, otters, raccoons, alligators and ducks. Wildlife photographers will love it.

If you're a die-hard antique collector, a visit to Renninger's Flea Market is a requisite part of a weekend visit. Located east of town

on U.S. 441, Renninger's is two humongous complexes chock full of antique dealers and bargains. Wear comfortable walking shoes and allow several hours to wander its labyrinth of aisles and booths.



**"Mount Dora is only**

china, needlework, clothing, jewelry, pottery, music, books and, of course, antiques, ranging from Victorian to Art Deco.

Getting hungry? An eclectic selection of fine restaurants, gourmet shops and delis serves up everything from healthy veggie sandwiches to hand-dipped chocolates.

Be sure to walk past Mount Dora's architectural centerpiece, the 1893 Donnelly House. A white and cream-colored wedding cake of brackets, spindles and porches topped by a steep roof crowned by a corner turret, the house is invariably called "Victorian" in style. But more knowledgeable architectural buffs will correctly label it Queen Anne, one of several architectural styles popular during the Victorian period.

Whatever you choose to call it, the house was built by J. P. Donnelly, one of Mount Dora's earliest residents. With several others he helped to found the town, laid out many of its first streets and twice served as its mayor. One block up the street is the white clapboard 1887 Community Congregational Church, Mount Dora's oldest church. Other sightseeing might include a visit to the Mount Dora Center for the Arts, which showcases the works of Florida artists, or to the Royellou Museum, which contains a collection of mementos from Mount Dora's early days.

Mount Dora is often called the Festival City, and with good

**about three years old, and until**

The premier place to stay in Mount Dora is the Lakeside Inn. Restored in 1985 for four million dollars, the inn is a

romantic complex of five buildings located on the shore of Lake Dora. Its centerpiece is one of the town's oldest buildings, a wonderful rambling frame structure built in 1883 and enlarged in 1903. Pick your favorite wooden rocker on its wide porch to wile away your cares. If you stay at the inn, you'll be in good company: President Calvin Coolidge visited Mount Dora often during the 1920s and spent a month at the Lakeside in 1930. Many bed and breakfast inns also offer cozy, historic accommodations in Mount Dora. You'll want to come back again. ■

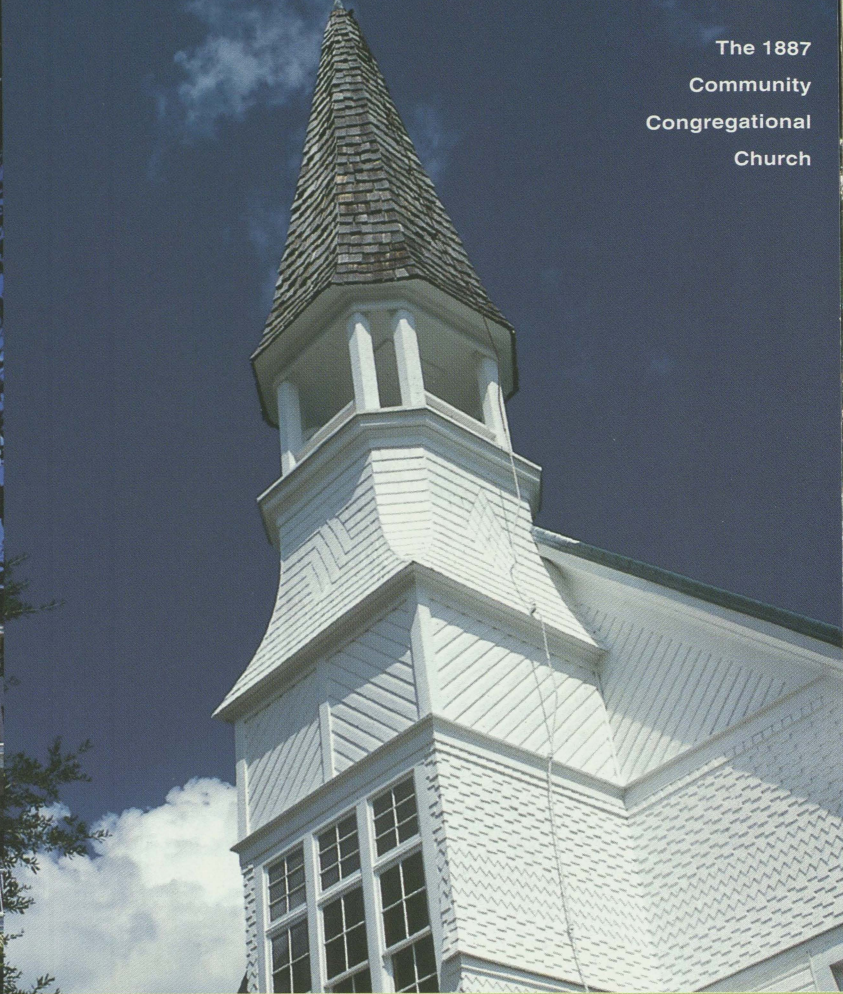
## *To Learn More*

Mount Dora is located off U.S. 441 about 25 miles north of Orlando; exit at S.R. 46 for the very short drive into town. First-time visitors may want to visit the Mount Dora Chamber of Commerce located in the former Seaboard Coast Line Depot at Alexander and Third Streets or call (352) 383-2165. For architectural sightseeing, pick up a self-guided historic tour of the town at the Chamber of Commerce which takes you past nearly thirty historic buildings along a three-mile route.





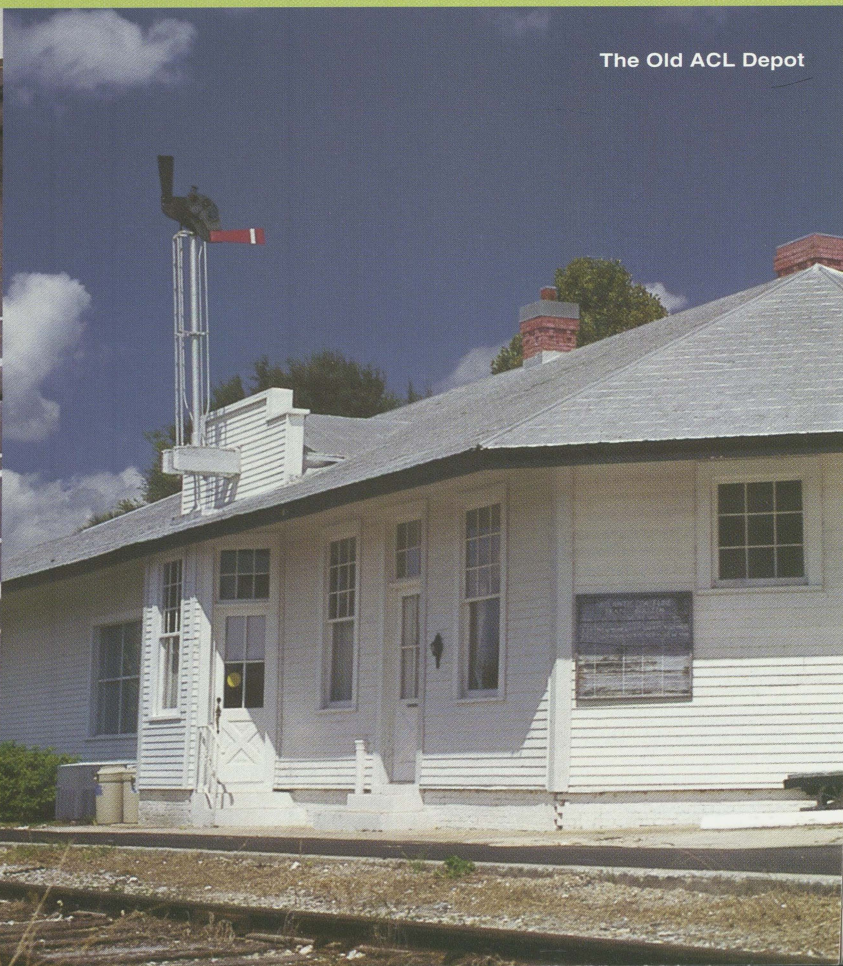
The Lakeside Inn



The 1887  
Community  
Congregational  
Church

quite recently has been somewhat difficult of access, having neither railroad or steamboat connections . . .”

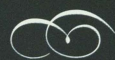
REVEREND W. S. FITCH, 1886



The Old ACL Depot



# FLORIDA'S HISTORY IN STONE



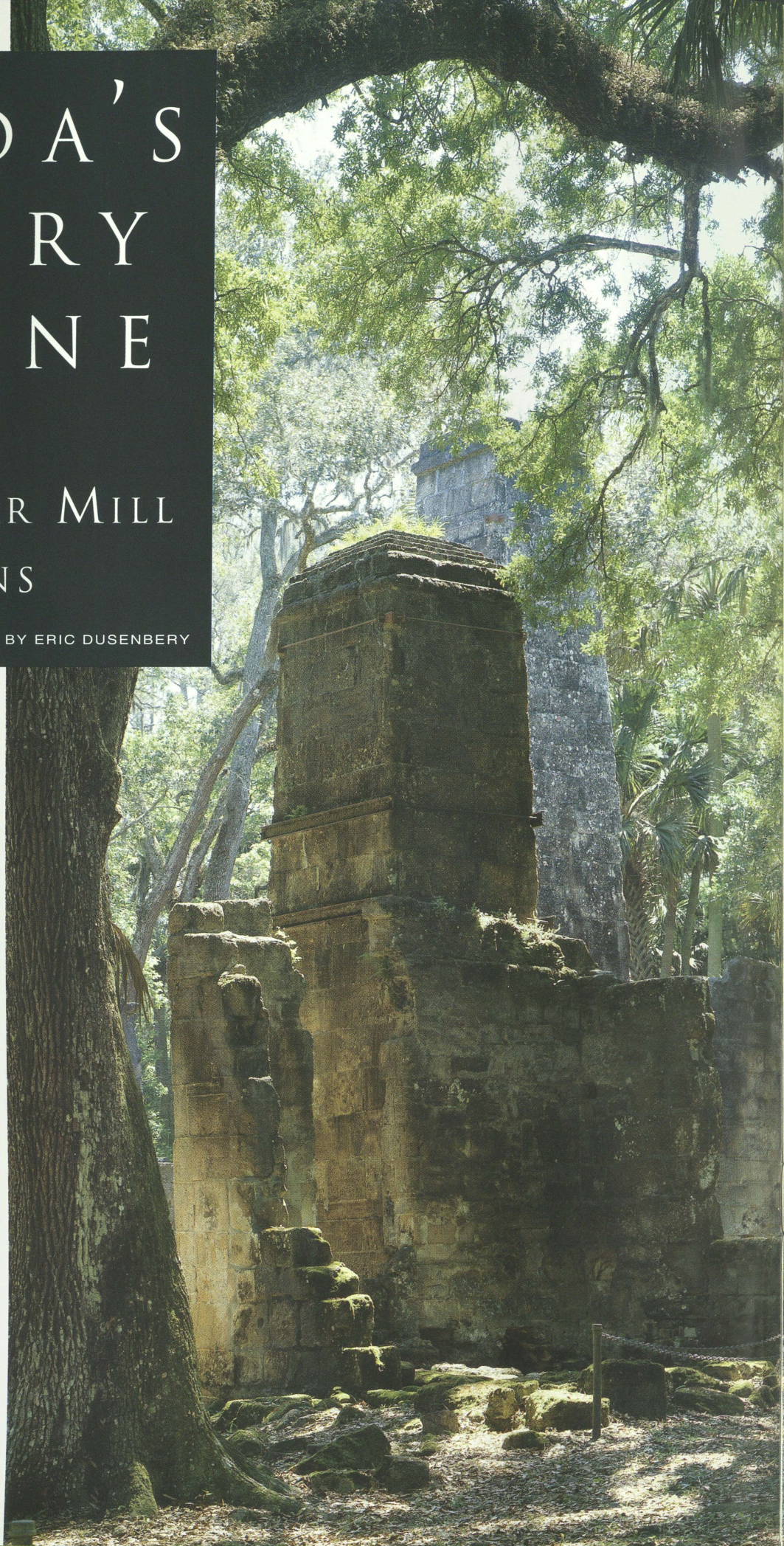
## THE GREAT SUGAR MILL PLANTATIONS

STORY BY RUSTY ENNEMOSER • PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIC DUSENBERY

They stand solid and unmoving, stone monuments to some of Florida's earliest pioneer settlements and one of the most turbulent periods in the state's history. The haunting coquina remains of sugar mill plantations in Flagler and Volusia Counties date back to the early 1800s. Another mill in Citrus County was built in 1851 and lasted through the Civil War.

In the 1820s, wealthy American planters purchased sizable areas of land at low prices in the Halifax River area, seeking their fortunes in cotton, indigo and sugar. They imported large numbers of slaves who cleared the fields and planted the cane. The plantations traded with the Seminoles, who supplied fresh venison, turkey, wild honey and arrowroot in exchange for gunpowder, lead, blankets and calico. The plantation owners worried that an influx of settlers and federal policies against the Indians would further increase tensions. They were right. In the winter of 1835-36, the Seminoles burned sixteen plantations in the area, putting to an end the sugar plantation era.

Today, the haunting remains of several sugar mill plantations can be seen. They include Bulow near Ormond Beach, Sugar Mill Gardens (Dunlawton) in Port Orange, New Smyrna Sugar Mill Ruins, and on the west coast, Yulee in Homosassa.





## BULOW PLANTATION



Bulow Ville was one of the most magnificent and extensive plantations on the east coast. Originally comprising more than 4,600 acres, the plantation had a 2-1/2 story mansion which contained an extensive library, 40 slave houses, sugar mill works, a barn, corn house, poultry house, gin house, sawmill, a blacksmith shop, boatslips and several wells. The land was purchased in 1821 by Charles Bulow, a successful plantation owner and former member of the South Carolina legislature. Bulow Ville had 300 slaves, and 1,000 acres planted in sugar cane and 1,200 in cotton. John James Audubon visited in 1831 during a collecting and painting trip through Florida. In early 1836, Seminoles attacked and destroyed the plantation.

Today, Bulow Plantation Ruins State Historic Site on Old Dixie Highway in Ormond Beach is open to the public. Remains of the sugar mill, several wells and the springhouse can be seen 365 days a year, 8 am - sundown. (904) 439-2219.

## SUGAR MILL GARDENS



The Dunlawton Plantation, now known as Sugar Mill Gardens, dates to 1804 and a land grant of 995 acres to Patrick Dean. It changed hands several times before it was acquired by James and George Anderson in 1832, who retained ownership throughout the Second Seminole War.



In December of 1835, Dunlawton was destroyed. A new owner attempted to rebuild the plantation in 1846 and abandoned the effort at the close of the Civil War.

Sugar Mill Botanical Gardens is open to the public on a daily basis. The physical remains of the sugar mill include structural ruins of coquina block and brick and an assortment of sugar pro-

cessing equipment, including gear mechanisms and boiling kettles. The park is open 9 am - 5 pm daily, and is located at 950 Old Sugar Mill Road, Port Orange. (904) 767-1735.



## NEW SMYRNA SUGAR MILL



The burning of New Smyrna by the Seminoles in December 1835, marked the beginning of the end of the sugar plantations. The mill was built in 1830 for William DePeyster and Eliza and Henry Kruger of New York. In the late 1800s, a new owner of the property was convinced that the ruins were those of a 17th century Spanish mission, believing that the coquina work and the use of arches were too fancy for a sugar mill. A bronze plaque on the site commemorated the Franciscan fathers who supposedly served there. Subsequent research showed that the mills were constructed so elaborately to protect new and expensive steam engines and equipment. Now a state historic site, the New Smyrna sugar mill ruins are an excellent place to imagine the attacks and subsequent destruction of this plantation. Standing here, with interpretive signs, are coquina walls, arched doorways and windows, wells and a chimney.

New Smyrna Sugar Mill Ruins State Historic Site, operated by the Florida Park Service, is located at 600 Old Mission Road, New Smyrna Beach. It is open 8 am to sundown, 365 days a year. (904) 428-2125.





## YULEE SUGAR MILL RUINS



Built later than the east coast sugar mills but no less intriguing is the Yulee Sugar Mill site in Homosassa. David Levy Yulee was one of Florida's most outstanding historical figures. Born in 1810 on the island of St. Thomas, Yulee went to law school in St. Augustine and became a member of Florida's first constitutional convention in 1838. In 1841 he was elected as a territorial delegate to the Congress. When Florida became a state in 1845, Yulee was the state's first U. S. senator.

The sugar mill was part of Yulee's 5,100 acre plantation called Margarita near the Homosassa River. By 1851, his sugar mill had 1,000 workers. During the Civil War, Yulee served in the Congress of the Confederacy. His steam-powered mill supplied sugar products for Southern troops and his mansion stored ammunition and supplies. In May 1864, a Union naval force burned his home to the ground. The mill, further inland, escaped damage but never resumed operation.

The mill has been partially restored and visitors can view it with the help of interpretive signs which explain the mill's operation. The site consists of a large limestone chimney, a boiler, two wells, kettles and machinery.

Yulee Sugar Mill Ruins State Historic Site, operated by the Florida Park Service, is located in Homosassa on State Road 490, west of U. S. 19. It is open 8 am until sundown.  
(352) 795-3817.







STORY BY TINA BUCUVALAS • PHOTOGRAPHY BY RAY STANYARD

# FLORIDA FOLK FESTIVAL

**celebrates our many cultures**

**f**lorida is unique among the southern states. We are south of the South not only in geography, but also in our strong connections with Latin American, Caribbean, and southern European cultures. South of the South will be the theme for the 45th annual Florida Folk Festival on Memorial Day weekend, May 23-25. As in previous years, the Florida Folk Festival will incorporate diverse aspects of Florida's cultural landscape.

For 45 years, Floridians have enjoyed three consecutive days and nights of musical concerts on multiple stages in the beautiful natural setting of Stephen Foster State Folk Culture Center on the Suwannee River in White Springs. This year, award-winning Florida fiddler Vassar Clements will lead the way. Clements, who has received seven Grammy nominations for his "hillbilly jazz," has played with many of the greats in country, jazz and rock music. The festival also includes the official Florida State Fiddle Contest. Sponsored by the Florida State Fiddlers' Association, the contest offers cash prizes and ribbons to winners in the junior, rustic, contemporary and twin categories.

Yet, the Florida Folk Festival is more than just a musical event. This oldest of state folk festivals provides a variety of ways that Floridians can sample the state's many cultural traditions. In the Folklife Area, visitors can experience the South of the South theme through dance, music, food, storytelling, and crafts demonstrations by folk artists from throughout the state. The Seminole Family Camp provides a permanent base for the interpretation of Seminole and Miccosukee traditions. Members of the Seminole Tribe built the chickees and arranged them as a traditional family camp. Each year Seminole and Miccosukee demonstrators at the camp share their knowledge about building chickees, sewing patchwork, making dolls, creating beadwork and other traditional activities.

Since 1985, the Secretary of State has awarded Folk Heritage Awards to Floridians whose lifelong devotion to folk arts has enriched the state's cultural legacy. Like the National Heritage Awards, they recognize authenticity, excellence and significance within the traditional arts and honor our most significant and influential traditional artists. Each year the Secretary presents the awards and hosts a reception at the Festival on Saturday afternoon.

Also appearing this year will be the 1996-1997 master/apprentice teams. Since 1983, the Florida Department of State's Folklife Apprenticeship Program has provided opportunities for master folk artists to share technical skills and cultural know-





*Spring  
1997*



ledge with apprentices in order to maintain the vitality of their traditional art. The apprentice learns values as well as techniques. A state coordinator documents team progress through interviews and photographs.

The six master/apprentice teams in the 1996-1997 Apprenticeship Program reflect the state's cultural diversity. The master artists are Onabamiera Ogunleye (Archer), who will teach Yoruba drumming, Mexican Maya marimba player Rafael Rivera, Sr. (Orlando), Irish fiddler Eddie Keeney (New Port Richey), Trinidadian steel drum maker Michael Kernahan (Miami), African American and African musical instrument maker Eddie Osborne (Miami), and Father Nikodim Pribojan (Longwood), who will teach Serbian Orthodox folk singing.

The Festival also provides exceptional educational experiences for Florida school children. Friday, May 23, will be devoted

primarily to school groups that will explore the richness of folk traditions through an exciting array of activities. In addition, this year special programs will provide teachers with new and innovative ways to bring Florida's heritage into the classroom. Through inservice workshops, teachers will learn how to identify and use Florida folklife, then will meet many of the traditional artists participating in the festival.

Finally, for those who would like to take a bit of Florida heritage home with them, the Marketplace booths offer a variety of books, recordings, musical instruments, clothing and hand-made crafts. ■

## To Learn More

The Florida Folk Festival will take place Memorial Day weekend, May 23, 24, and 25, at the Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center in White Springs. Call the Festival Information Line: (904) 488-1673. To get to the festival, take the White Springs exit off I-75, about 14 miles north of Lake City. Follow the signs to the Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center. Campgrounds for tents and RVs and area motels are located near White Springs on I-75 and SR 136, as well as in Lake City, Jasper, Jennings, and Live Oak. Call the Hamilton County Chamber of Commerce at (904) 792-1300 for more camping/motel information. Call the Stephen Foster Center at (904) 397-2733 for park regulations.

## Through September 1 Tampa

"Dinosaur Safari." Exhibit featuring the world's most comprehensive collection of cast Ceratopsian skulls, skeletons, life reconstructions and paintings. Museum of Science and Industry. (813) 987-6313.

## April 25-26 White Springs

Stephen Foster Storytelling Fest. Popular storytellers from Florida and beyond stretch tales and yarns over two days. Stephen Foster State Folk Culture Center. (904) 397-2733.

## Through May 4 West Palm Beach

"Alex Katz: Under the Stars, American Landscapes." Katz, an artist known primarily for his portrait work, presents landscape images from woodlands and beaches in Maine to urban landscapes in New York. The Norton Museum of Art. (561) 832-5196.

## Through May 4 Winter Park

"Kunstammer: An Exhibition in the Style of a Renaissance Collection." Exhibition resembling the earliest collections displayed by museums, combining science, art, ethnological and antique artifacts. The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art. (407) 645-5311.

## Through May 18 Miami

Dade Heritage Days. Festival highlighting the cultural, social and architectural history of Dade County, including lectures, tours, films and exhibits. Dade Heritage Trust. (305) 358-9572.

## Through May 23 Daytona Beach

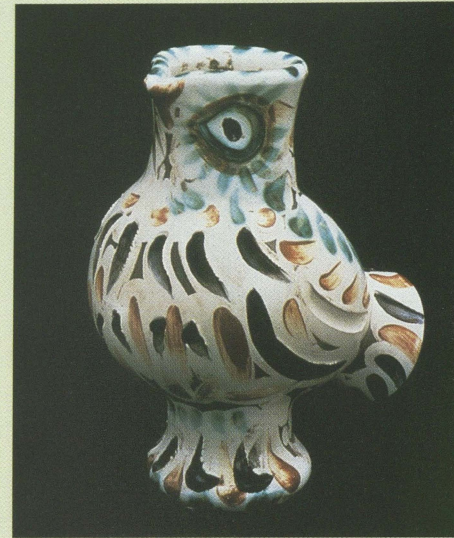
"Lotte Jacobi: Artist and Mentor." Exhibition of twentieth-century photography that includes naturalistic portraits of movers and shakers such as Albert Einstein, Kathe Kollwitz, Kurt Weil and Peter Lorre. Southeast Museum of Photography. (904) 947-5475.

## Through July 13 Gainesville

"The American Scene and the South: Paintings and Works on Paper, 1930-1946." Works by American Scene movement artists that includes perspectives on the South by black WPA printmakers and a number of female artists. The Harn Museum of Art. (352) 392-9826.

## Through July 31 Naples

"Spanish Treasure." Treasure recovered from a ship thought to have accompanied the Atocha in the 1600s. Artifacts number 12,000 and include Spanish pieces of eight, religious items, navigational instruments and everyday cookware. The Collier County Museum. (941) 774-8476.



## The Picasso Project:

Ceramics From the  
Bernie Bercuson  
Collection, The Museum  
of Arts and Sciences,  
Daytona Beach

## April 26-September 14 Daytona Beach

"The Picasso Project: Ceramics From the Bernie Bercuson Collection." Fifty ceramic objects in an exhibit that represents the unique artistic flair of this Spanish artist. The Museum of Arts and Sciences. (904) 255-0285.

## April 26 DeFuniak Springs

Chautauqua Festival. Celebration that includes a parade, live entertainment, antique car show, canoe race, activities for children, crafts and foods. The Florida Chautauqua. (904) 892-9494.

*Continued on page 24.*



## CALENDAR

Continued from page 23.

### April 26-27

#### Jacksonville

23rd Annual Tour of Historic District Homes and Gardens. Visit ten historic homes and gardens that span the greatest diversity of architectural styles in Florida. A fee is charged. Riverside Avondale Preservation, Inc. (904) 389-2449.

### April 26-27

#### Kissimmee

JazzFest Kissimmee. Features live musical performances by professional and amateur musicians and a food court. Osceola Center for the Arts. (407) 846-6257.

### May 2-September 15

#### Orlando

"Imperial Tombs of China." Prized treasures from seven dynasties of Chinese emperors. Orlando Museum of Art. (407) 896-4231.

### May 3

#### Apalachicola

Sixth Annual Spring Tour of Historic Homes. Tour includes twenty-five private homes and four historic churches. (904) 670-8744.

### May 4

#### Ft Lauderdale

"Busytown." The museum's first bilingual exhibit on math and science that is based on characters and settings from books by Richard Scarry, who is featured on Nickelodeon programming. Museum of Discovery and Science. (954) 467-6637.

### May 4

#### Fort Myers

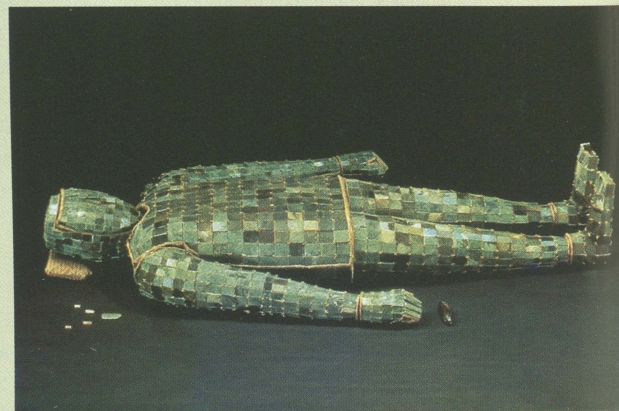
11th Annual Israel Family Independence Day Festival. Enjoy a day of Jewish tradition that includes ethnic foods from the Middle East and Eastern Europe. Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties. (941) 481-4449.

### May 8-11

#### Tallahassee

Shakespeare-in-the-Park. Shakespearean performances, knights, foods, games, magicians and music. Southern Shakespeare Festival. (904) 671-0742.

**Imperial Tombs of China,  
Orlando Museum of Art**




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**May 10****Howey-In-The-Hills**

72nd Birthday Bash and Citizen Salute. Town's anniversary celebration honoring Helen Buck, an original settler. Events include nature preserve tour, historical exhibits, children's activities, book sale and refreshments. Historic Preservation Board.  
(352) 324-3605.

**May 13****Mount Dora**

Dora Canal Boat Tour. Tour includes history of region and narrative about the surrounding plant and animal life. Citrus County Historical Society.  
(562) 637-9927.

**May 15-18****Miami Beach**

Florida Trust for Historic Preservation Annual Meeting. The event of the year for preservation professionals and activists. The Florida Trust for Historic Preservation.  
(904) 224-8128.

**May 17-18****Jupiter**

9th Annual Seafare Festival. Crafts, seafood specialties, entertainment, reenactments and lighthouse climbing tours. Florida History Center and Museum.  
(407) 747-6639.

**May 22****Key West**

Cemetery Walk. Guided tour of one of the state's most historic city cemeteries that features historic, artistic and architectural commentary. Historic Florida Keys Foundation.  
(305) 292-6718.

**May 23-25****White Springs**

45th Annual Florida Folk Festival. Music, storytelling, craft sales and demonstrations, and foods highlight the longest running state folk festival in the country. Stephen Foster State Folk Culture Center.  
(904) 488-1484.

**June****Melbourne**

Sea Turtle Walk. Every Friday and Saturday in June, "The Walk" begins with a late evening slide show and, later, a stroll down the Atlantic Ocean beach in search of nesting loggerhead sea turtles. Sebastian Inlet State Recreation Area.  
(407) 984-4852.

**June 5-8****Sarasota**

International Orchid Conference. Scientists, writers, collectors, environmentalists, growers and hobbyists meet to exchange multi-dimensional ideas on orchids. Marie Selby Botanical Gardens.  
(941) 366-5731.

**June 6-8****Miami**

Miami/Bahamas Goombay Festival. Celebration of Bahamian settlement of South Florida that includes a street festival, music and Caribbean cuisine.  
(305) 372-9966.

**June 4-14****Pensacola**

Fiesta of Five Flags. Pensacola heritage festival that includes the Spanish Fiesta, the Surrender of the City, treasure hunt, concerts and foods.  
(904) 433-6512.

**July 18-27****Key West**

Hemingway Days. Festival that celebrates the life and work of Ernest Hemingway—includes fishing tournament and writing events.  
(305) 294-4440.

**August 16****Delray Beach**

Bon Festival. Japanese folk dancing, street fair and lantern floating. Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens.  
(954) 722-9733.

*Please call the number listed to verify dates. There may be an admission charge for some events. Listings for the calendar should be mailed at least four months in advance to Florida Heritage Magazine, 500 South Bronough St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250, or faxed to (904) 922-0496.*



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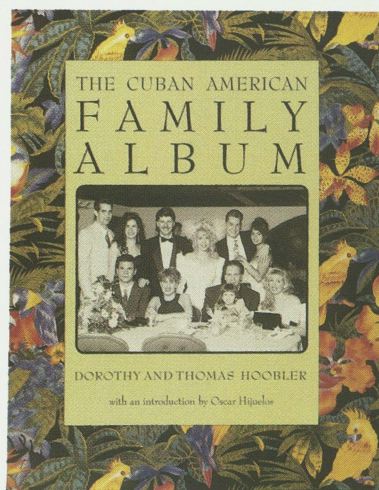
## THE CUBAN AMERICAN FAMILY ALBUM

By Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler, with introduction by Oscar Hijuelos. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996. *American Family Albums*. 128pp. Hardcover. \$19.95.

While many works have detailed the political results of Cuban immigration to the U.S., few have concentrated on the core aspects of Cuban and Cuban American culture. Family is perhaps the central value in Cuban culture, and in this book the Hooblers have provided us with a valuable addition to the limited body of literature documenting that culture.

*The Cuban American Family Album* covers a wide spectrum of topics as well as the full historic range of Cuban immigration to this country. Chapters cover "The Old Country," "Coming to the United States," "Ports of Entry," "A New Life," "Putting Down Roots," and "Part of the United States." Most of the narrative consists of first-hand accounts by Cuban immigrants from a variety of places, times, and socio-economic backgrounds. Thus we develop a sense of what it was like to emigrate to Key West in the late nineteenth century as well as the Marielito experience in 1980. This approach to historical narrative is refreshing and engrossing. It not only allows the reader to enjoy a wide variety of perspectives, but also provides data that has not been reinterpreted by the authors. Ample photographs further enliven the text.

Reviewed by Tina Bucuvalas, Bureau of Historic Preservation.



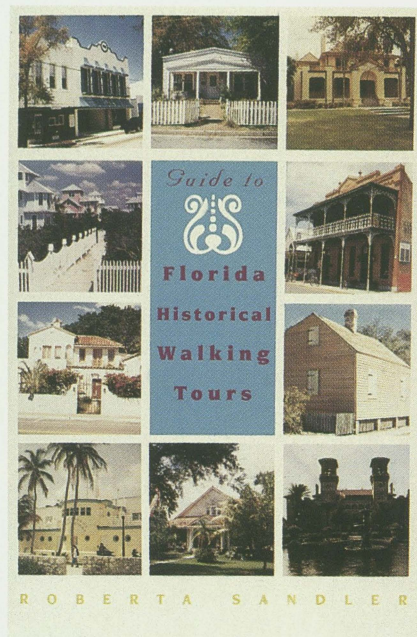
## GUIDE TO FLORIDA HISTORICAL WALKING TOURS

By Roberta Sandler. Sarasota: Pineapple Press, 1996. 288 pp. ISBN 1-56164-105-7. Softcover. \$14.95.

"Put on your walking shoes and experience the heart of Florida's history, people and architecture." Thus begins another work of appreciation for the state's diversity and rich lore published by Pineapple Press. *Guide to Florida Historical Walking Tours* is a work of research and sensitivity compiled with the assistance of knowledgeable history buffs and many hours spent walking Florida's streets. The book includes thirty-two self-guided ventures, ranging from St. Augustine to Key West and many communities in between. The author is Roberta Sandler, an award-winning travel writer whose love for Florida shows through.

In her book she has divided the state for the traveler's convenience, highlighting tales in each geographical area. And in a stroke of thoughtfulness, she has identified bed and breakfast inns and popular old restaurants in each area. The book is a handy guide that allows travelers to see the state at their own pace.

Reviewed by Jim Walker.



## INDIAN ART OF ANCIENT FLORIDA

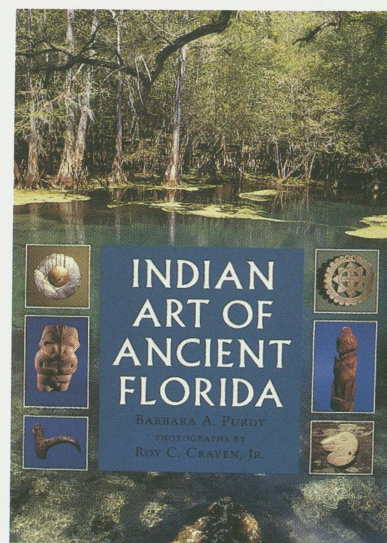
By Barbara A. Purdy. Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1996. 132 pp. ISBN 0-8130-1462-X. Hardcover.

Until now no book has been devoted exclusively to the artistic achievements of the Florida Indians. Some of them have never been illustrated before. Partly funded by a historic preservation grant from the Florida Department of State, *Indian Art of Ancient Florida* presents these works of art to an audience beyond the archaeologists who have studied them for decades.

The first works of art were fashioned in Florida beginning about 5,000 B.C. They included carved wood or bone preserved in wetlands, as well as ground and polished stone implements that also originate from the Archaic period. Probably the earliest pottery in native North America appeared at about 2,000 B.C., gradually becoming more elaborate in form and decoration and culminating in the Weedon Island pottery style. This early art continued even after the arrival of Spaniards in the early 16th century, sometimes refashioning European-introduced metals into objects that expressed Native American beliefs.

The book depicts 116 magnificent objects beautifully photographed by the late Roy C. Craven, Jr. Not a moment too soon have these images been captured for all of us to admire and contemplate.

Reviewed by Rusty Ennemoser, editor, Florida Heritage magazine.





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yourself and  
empower your  
community.**

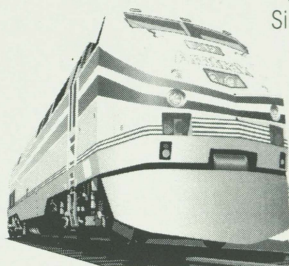
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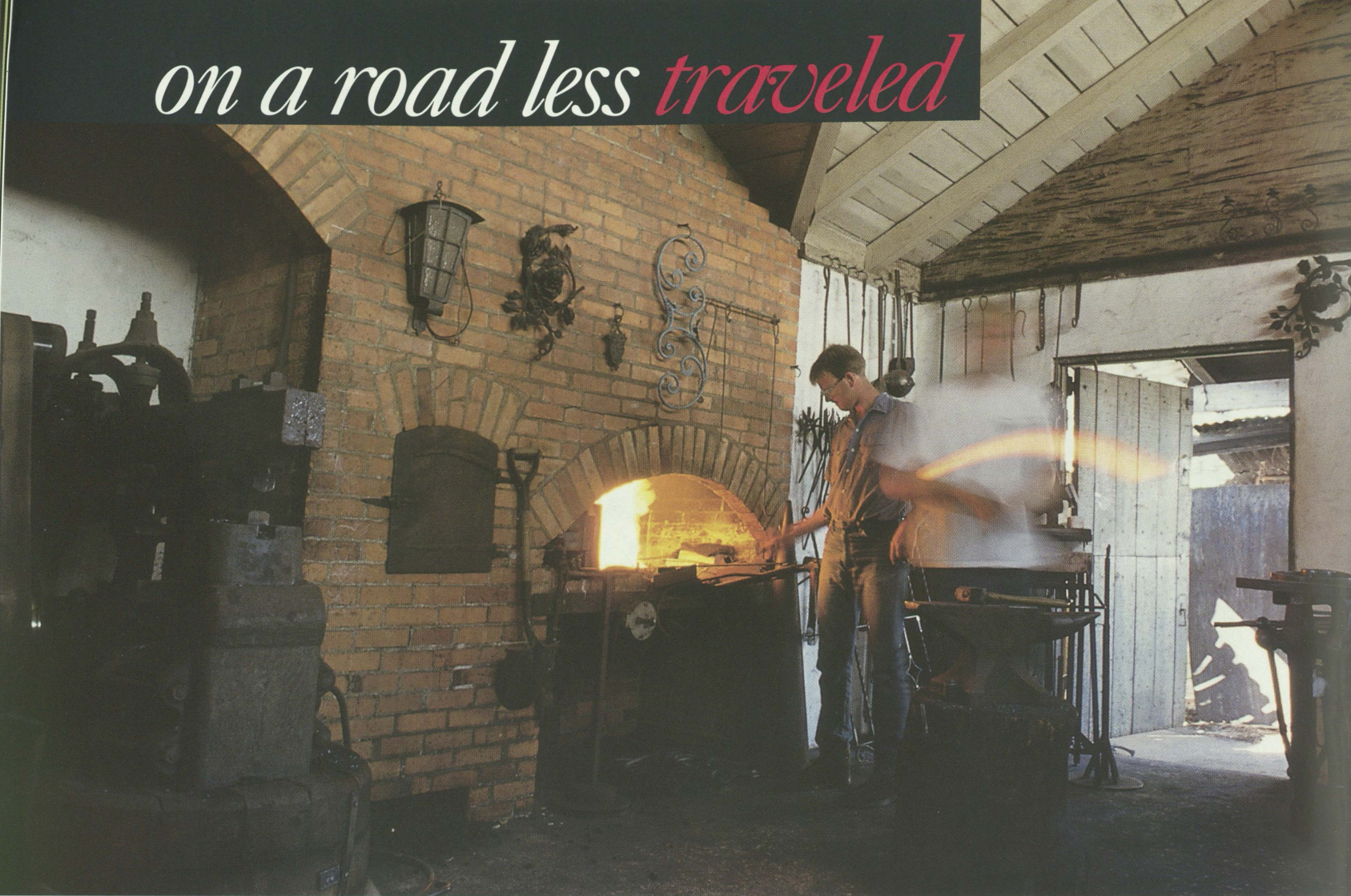
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Funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts; with Historical Museums Grants-In-Aid Program assistance provided by the Bureau of Historical Museums, Division of Historical Resources, Florida Department of State, Sandra B. Mortham, Secretary of State; sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and the Florida Arts Council; and with the support of the Metropolitan Dade County Cultural Affairs Council and the Metropolitan Dade County Board of County Commissioners.



*on a road less traveled*



## FORGING NEW ROADS IN METALWORKING

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY PHILLIP M. POLLOCK

Inside Kreissle Forge, Peter and Joe Kreissle (pronounced Krise-lee) work with guarded precision before a brilliant bed of amber coals. Their movements are choreographed with the timed heating of metal as it reaches the intense forge temperature. The heat renders the iron malleable, approaching a near-molten state. If you did not appreciate the finesse these artisans possess or see perspiration bead on their foreheads, you might think their skill was playful, like modeling clay.

Kreissle Forge was built in 1947, and three generations of the Kreissle family have operated it since. George Kreissle, Sr. left his ironworking plant in Long Island, seeing Sarasota as a place to build a landmark 'smithy' and capitalize on post-World War II development. George's creations included gates at the Asolo Theater, ironwork for Charleston's 1969 Tri-Centennial Celebration, and, later, entrance gates at the South Florida Museum's Bishop Planetarium.

Remaining unchanged through the years are the forge's broad chimney, hand-forged hardware on Dutch doors, impressive showrooms, large golden anvil along the semi-circular drive, and cupola capped by a horse-drawn sully weather vane. Kreissle Forge was

listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1996.

Today, George Kreissle, Jr., owns the forge; he is a master metalsmith. As a school-aged boy, he won two consecutive National Industrial Arts Awards, competing against thousands of students. His first entry, a forged and riveted wrought iron house bell, foreshadowed the primitive art he and his two sons now incorporate in the ornamental products they create.

Aside from the immense and ancient Bradley power hammer, most of the shaping and forging—heating two pieces of iron to a near-melting point and hammering them together—at Kreissle's is still done by hand. The tools along with numerous bits and pieces of hand-forged metal are easily visible against the clay-red brick fireplace and pecky cypress gable wall backdrop. The Kreissle Forge has taken ironworking in Florida to a level of artistry, and now the roads of Florida (less traveled or otherwise) are more beautiful for it.

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*Kreissle Forge is located at 7947 North Tamiami Trail in Sarasota, across from the Sarasota airport. The forge is open Monday through Friday from 9 am until 5 pm. Call (813) 355-6795.*



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